

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00946 201009Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009542 201128Z /20
R 200950Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8238
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0946

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PBOR ENRG MMOL LA VM
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY IN SAVANNAKHET

REF: VIENTIANE 0942

1. A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND USUALLY RELIABLE WESTERN SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 20 THAT AN ASSOCIATE RELATED TO HIM SAME DATE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE.
2. PAVN FORCES HAVE POSITIONED THIRTY RIVER CRAFT ON THE MEKONG IN THE VICINITY OF SAVANNAKHET. THE CRAFT WERE BROUGHT IN TO LAOS FROM VIETNAM SINCE MAY; EACH IS ARMED WITH A MACHINE GUN.
3. VIETNAMESE, APPARENTLY CIVILIANS, ARE ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY 700 HOUSES EACH AT FOUR POINTS ON ROUTE 9 BETWEEN KILOMETER 15 AND SENO, NORTH AND EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
4. AT SENO, THERE IS A LARGE ENCAMPMENT OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS EQUIPPED WITH APPROXIMATELY SIXTY TANKS AND APPROXIMATELY 200 "TROOP CARRIER" TRUCKS.

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5. THERE ARE FUEL STORAGE TANKS (OPERATIONAL) OF APPROXIMATELY 145,000 LITERS EACH LOCATED IN PAIRS AT THE FOLLOWING SITES: ONE SITE BETWEEN SENO AND DONE HENE; ONE BETWEEN DONE HENE AND MOUNG PHALANE; AND ONE BETWEEN MOUNG PHALANE AND SEPONE. AT SEPONE THERE IS A LARGE FUEL STORAGE SITE (STRATEGIC) WITH A CAPACITY

OF BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR MILLION LITERS.

6. ROUTE 11 EXTENDING FRGM SAVANNAKHET TO ROUTE 13
HAS BEEN CUT BY INSURGENT FORCES SINCE MAY.

7. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO TRADE BETWEEN MUKDAHAN AND
SAVANNAKHET, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ABSENCE OF ANY GOODS
IMPORTED FROM THAILAND IN LOCAL MARKETS.

8. COMMENT: PARAS 2 AND 4 TEND TO CONFIRM INFORMA-
TION REPORTED REFTEL, THOUGH THE NUMBER OF RIVER CRAFT
ABOVE IS LARGER THAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. REFTEL
NOTED VIETNAMESE "SETTLEMENTS" IN EASTERN SAVANNAKHET
WHILE THIS REPORT LOCATES SUCH SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN
SAVANNAKHET AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

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